



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester



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Undefeated Bulls’ fast-paced offense dazzles Magic 25-12

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER
STAFF WRITER

The Bulls defeated the Magic 27-15 in the 9- and 10-year-old age group of the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina youth basketball league, at the Depot MCCS-SC gym Jan. 22.

The Bulls came into the game undefeated, and through a dominating performance by Anthony Taylor Jr., kept it that way. He scored 19 points, enabling the Bulls to improve to 3-0.

While the Bulls had momentum in their favor, the Magic seemed to have just the opposite, as every shot they put up

went in and out of the basket. The chaotic shooting resulted in the Magic falling to a 2-2 record on the season.

The Bulls built their first-half lead through a fast-break offense, highlighted with lots of layups and passing.

“We are always practicing the fast break and our rebounding,” said Anthony B. Taylor, the coach for the Bulls. “At this age if you teach them a fast court break the defense isn’t going to follow you, because they are confused and don’t know which way to go.”

That philosophy carries over into other areas of the game for Taylor, like when his team is running an inbounds play.

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- Anthony B. Taylor, the coach for the Bulls

“If they are running the fast break the way I stack it out of bounds, the defense will be confused and then I have my point guard running open for a shot,” said Taylor.

The Bulls fast-break offense was too much for the Magic to handle, as they had difficulty making the proper adjustments.

“Overall, they are pretty good, but tonight just wasn’t a

good night,” said Ted A. Aiken, assistant coach for the Magic. “We had some personal attitude problems to deal with.”

The Magic are in the middle of a mid-season coaching addition and are trying for a smooth transition.

The team has experienced a few bumps in the road, transitioning from a one-coach team to a two-coach team, said

Tammy G. Dalsing, assistant coach for the Magic.

The rough start translated into a lack of focus on the court.

“A lot of the children get really excited with the ball and they lose concentration,” said Aiken. “They seem to be more focused on getting the ball back down the court and not on passing the ball to the other players.”

The Bulls found ways to exploit the other team’s lack of focus by using confusing offensive and defensive schemes. In the second half, the Bulls continually sent half-court passes to players positioned under the basket that came through with easy layups.

“[Our opponents] are going to follow the majority of the team,” he said. “But, then I send two of my guards down court and they are wide open. That is one way we have been able to confuse our opponents.”

Taylor feels his team is getting stronger every week, in almost all aspects of the game.

“When we get a big lead, they get happy,” he said. “I want to teach them to dribble the ball and run the time out.”

The Bulls’ next game will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the Depot MCCS-SC gym. The Magic will take on the Sixers at 7:00 p.m. at the Laurel Bay gym Feb. 3.

MALS-31 Ord bombs H&SBn. 51-40, improves to 12-1

CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD
STAFF WRITER

MALS-31 Ord defeated H&SBn. 51-40 in the Tri-Command Intramural Basketball League at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Jan. 21.

The win improved MALS’ record to 12-1, maintaining its position as the number one team in the league.

Since early in the season, no team has come close to matching MALS’ win percentage. The team apparently has found an effective strategy that continues to knock down opponents game after game.

“Our chemistry is one of the secrets to our success,” said Howard Ball,

head coach for MALS. “Knowing who can do what, and always giving 110 percent on offense and defense has enabled us to keep winning.”

Ball said that he and his players also scout future opponents to give them an edge. He attributed their one loss to a lack of focus in the final minutes, admitting that everyone can be beaten.

“It was against RTR and we had a really bad last minute and a half,” he said. “Any team can beat anyone on any given night, so I have to worry about them all and play the same.”

H&SBn. practically proved Ball’s theory when the team refused to lie down easily against MALS. The first half belonged to the H&SBn. play-

ers, as they managed to take the lead for a brief stint. They were down by four going into the half.

After halftime, however, H&SBn. seemed to have lost its bite. One of their key players, guard Jermaine Parlow, fouled out only a few seconds into the second half. MALS did not miss the opportunity to take advantage of the loss.

“When their star fouled out early in the second half, we started trapping whoever had the ball by doubling up and forcing a bad pass or shot,” said Ball.

The strategy seemed to work well for MALS. H&SBn. proceeded to make 10 consecutive turnovers in the first nine minutes, as MALS began to steadily pull away.

“We played close with them in the beginning of the game, but the turnovers and foul trouble held us back in the second half,” said Ildefonso Santiago, forward for H&SBn. “We seemed to have lost focus, and our heads, during crucial parts of the game.”

Santiago and the others still appeared to be trying to regain their focus. They were ranked fifth in the league standings just two weeks ago. They lost their second game in two days when MALS-31 Supply defeated them Jan. 22, sinking the team to the number eight position with a 6-5 record.

“We’re a lot better than that,” said Danny Thomas, guard for H&SBn. “We’re not playing up to our level.”

Thomas said that in order to improve upon their standing, the team would have to get more aggressive inside at the post positions. Other areas, such as outside shooting, however, have helped Thomas to not completely rule out a noteworthy finish in the post season.

“If we can get everyone to come together and get on the same page, we can be a contender in the playoffs,” said Thomas. “We’ve been having trouble getting people [to go] to the games and we can’t get any practice in.”

Santiago agreed that the team’s progress is coming along slowly, but surely.

He said the team needs to practice ball movement and ball handling, but is strong in speed and endurance.

“It’s been a roller coaster season, but it’s going to get better,” he said. “I definitely think we have what it takes. In fact, we are going to shock



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald

Danny Thomas, guard for H&SBn., puts up a shot over MALS-31 Ord defenders in a game at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Jan. 21. MALS won the game 51-40, enabling the team to keep its number one placement in the league standings with a 12-1 record. RTR, which sits third in the league, is the only team to have beaten MALS.



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald

Danny Thomas, guard for H&SBn., drives past a MALS-31 Ord defender in a game at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Jan. 21. H&SBn. produced 10 consecutive turnovers in the second half to lead to a 51-40 loss, moving the team to eighth in the league with a 6-5 record.

some folks in the playoffs.”

Santiago, Thomas, Parlow and the rest of the H&SBn. squad will attempt to begin the improvement on their record when they face WFTBn. Thursday at 8 p.m. at the complex. WFTBn. sits in last place with a 2-7 record.

Meanwhile, Ball and the MALS players will continue to try to maintain their first-place status. No matter

what the rest of the season holds for MALS, the team agreed that the level of success they have achieved thus far was enough to leave them satisfied.

“I am so pleased with this team,” said Ball. “We are not a big team, so we have to give until we have nothing left. A coach at any level can appreciate that ... win or lose.”

MALS goes against Dirty Dental Thursday at 7 p.m.